

# NO EXTRAVAGANCE IN ILLITERACY BODY

## Kentucky Commission, Headed By Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, Vindicated in Sewell Report.

The Kentucky Illiteracy Commission, of which Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart is chairman, has been completely vindicated of the charge of extravagance, circulated sometime ago.

In his report, just published, Hon. Nat B. Sewell, State Inspector and examiner, not only gives Mrs. Stewart, the chairman, and the other members of the commission a "clean bill of health," but commends them for their economy in expenditures, unselfish devotion and loyalty of purpose which have already borne such good results and which promise to completely eradicate illiteracy in Kentucky by 1920.

The Leader reprints that portion of Inspector and Examiner Sewell's report referring to the efficient work of the Commission and vindicating it of even the suspicion of extravagance, which follows:

### Extract From Report

"The Kentucky Illiteracy Commission created by Act of the General Assembly of 1914, was the first commission of its kind in the world. The movement which led to the establishment of this Commission had its origin in Rowan county, Kentucky. In September, 1911, Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, then superintendent of schools in Rowan county, started a movement to teach adult illiterates in her home county to read and write.

"In February, 1914, the Kentucky Legislature created the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission as a department of the State whose function was to eradicate adult illiteracy from the State. The members of this Commission appointed by Governor McCreary in April, 1914, were: Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart, chairman; H. H. Cherry, president Western Kentucky State Normal school; J. G. Crabbe, president Eastern Kentucky State Normal school, and Miss Ella Lewis, county superintendent of Grayson county. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is a member ex-officio.

"When Mr. Crabbe left the State in 1917, he was succeeded by Mr. Woodson May who, with the members mentioned above, constitute the present Illiteracy Commission. Under the law, no member of the Commission is entitled to any salary but all are entitled to their necessary expenses when in the actual service of the Commission. In the period of nearly five years, since the Commission was appointed, two of the members have never drawn any expenses and the other two only a small part of the amount incurred by them in attending its meetings.

"From 1914 to 1916, the Commission extended the work of teaching adult illiterates, either in schools or individually into many counties of the State. The teaching force consisted of public school teachers and some business and professional people who gave their services without either salary or expenses. No finer example of unselfish devotion to any Kentucky cause has ever been shown than the ungrudging work done by the public school teachers, year after year, in their endeavor to eradicate illiteracy from the State.

### 4,000 to 6,000 Teachers

"The number of volunteer teachers has run from 4,000 to 6,000 per year. It is estimated that at various times, 10,000 moonlight schools have been conducted in the State. Had these volunteer teachers received even the nominal wage of \$1.00 per evening, their contribution to the State would amount to over one half million dollars, or the largest contribution ever made by any profession or organization to any public cause in Kentucky. It has well been said of these unselfish teachers: "Their heroic self-sacrifice cannot be shown in figures but ranks alongside of that of Kentucky's soldiers who have fought so valiantly in various wars."

"At least 100,000 people in the State have been taught, at least, the simpler elements of a common school education. According to the 1910 census, this leaves over 100,000 illiterates in Kentucky yet to be reached. The Illiteracy Commission, with an excellent Statewide organization, with a stronger sentiment in its favor than

ever before, and with more funds at its disposal, has planned to cover every county in the State and to reach every illiterate that can be reached before the taking of the next census in 1920. This is a gigantic task but the results attained since the small beginning in Rowan county eight years ago gave strong hope to those most deeply interested that the task will be accomplished to such a degree that Kentucky, in 1920, will have a very small percentage of adult people who cannot read and write. Moreover there will be results attained that cannot be measured by any test in the bringing about of a greater zeal and a stronger organization for practical and technical education among all classes of people living under all kinds of conditions in all parts of the Commonwealth.

### Other States Join

"The eradication of illiteracy is no longer a Kentucky undertaking. A Kentucky county superintendent conceived the idea and put it into execution in the face of actual opposition, or of scoffing from those who chose to look upon the idea as an impracticable dream. Now more than a dozen other States of the Union are vying with Kentucky in the race to eliminate illiteracy by 1920. The Federal government has recognized the plan as practical and is using every means to put it into operation thruout the Nation. Mrs. Stewart, originator of the moonlight school plan, present Chairman of the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission and Chairman of the National Illiteracy Committee, is devoting her entire time to this work, as she has most unselfishly for the past seven years, and is giving other States the fullest benefit possible of the plans that have been carried out successfully in this State.

"Upon the whole, there cannot be the slightest charge of extravagance made against any of the members or employees of the Illiteracy Commission, evidenced fully by the records of the Extreme economy in expenditures is past four years. During the two fiscal years 1914 to 1916, the sum of \$1,502.22 for printing, supplies, etc., was paid by the State for this Commission without specific statutory authority. This seems to have been done, however, with the approval of the Governor, the Auditor, the Attorney General, and others who had authority either to permit or not to permit these expenditures. Therefore, if these expenditures for necessary printing and supplies were authorized and sanctioned at that time by these State officials, I see no ground whatever for criticism of the Commission for accepting for their use in a State department these necessary supplies and printing. Finally, I feel it only fair to express my approval not only of the economy in expenditures and zeal in purpose, but of the diligent industry that has constantly been in evidence in the conduct of the very extensive work of the Illiteracy Commission.

(Signed) "NAT B. SEWELL,  
State Inspector and Examiner."

## THEATRES

The Ada Meade announces the best program of musical comedy tabloid and feature picture for the first half of the week it has ever offered. The musical tabloid attraction is Holly & Mozar's "Cheer-up Girls," a company that comes here with a reputation second to none in its line. Its specialty is singing and dancing and comedy. The company will be here all week, and will change its bill Thursday so as to give two brand-new shows a week.

The feature picture is one which thousands of people have paid two dollars to see. It is a filming of the famous "Caillaux Case," the sensation of the world. It is one of the greatest efforts ever put forth by William Fox.

In this marvelous picture you have a film dramatization of the greatest international tragedy of modern times. It is not fiction. It is fact. Its sensational scenes actually have been lived by real men and women.

The names of Joseph Caillaux, once Premier of France but now in prison; Gaston Calmette, the slain French editor; Mme. Caillaux, who killed him; Bolo Pasha, recently executed for plotting to betray France to the Kaiser—all these famous characters are known to everybody who reads the newspapers.

There also is much in the lives of the "Caillaux ring" which the public does not know and will discover for the first time when they see this picture. Their intrigues, their plotting for power and German gold, their crushing of honest citizens who stood in their way, the scandals of their lives, their secret political machinations in America and in various countries of Europe, form an absorbing drama of ruthless ambition that for power and intensity can be compared only to Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Beside "The Caillaux Case," the famous Dreyfus case pales into insignificance.

For Sunday only, the picture is Elizabeth Ridson in "Mother," a realistic film which brings back to all the days of innocent childhood, the scenes of youth, the doings of "grownupdom," and always mother is there—the guardian angel. This is one of the best